SHIPP, A.
Appl. No. 10/500,958
Response to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):   A content scanning system for electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)   link analyser operative to identify hyperlinks in the ~~document~~ content of electronic documents; ~~and~~

b)   processing means for causing a content scanner to scan objects referenced by hyperlinks ~~links~~ identified by the link analyser and to determine the ~~their~~ acceptability of the objects according to predefined rules, the processing means being operative, responsive to a hyperlink ~~the link~~ being to an object external to the document which object is determined by the content scanner to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and store the retrieved external object on a trusted server, the processing means being operative, responsive to a hyperlink being to an object external to the document which is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable, to perform remedial action; and

(c)   hyperlink replacing means for modifying electronic documents ~~modify the document~~ by replacing the hyperlink ~~link~~ to an ~~the~~ external object identified by the link analyser by a hyperlink ~~one~~ to the ~~a~~ copy of the external object stored on the ~~a~~ trusted server.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):   A system according to claim 1 wherein the link analyser ~~a)~~ and the processing means ~~b)~~ are operative to recursively process hyperlinks ~~links~~ identified in such external objects.

Claim 3 (Original):   A system according to claim 2 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

SHIPP, A.
Appl. No. 10/500,958
Response to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):   A system according to claim 1 wherein the remedial action comprises one or more of:

flagging or modifying the document to indicate that the content scanner has found the object to be unacceptable;

modifying the document by replacing the hyperlink by a non-functional hyperlink; and

quarantining the document and sending the intended recipient an alert advising the recipient that this has been done ~~if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact~~.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):   A method of content-scanning electronic documents such as emails comprising:

a)   using a link analyser to identify hyperlinks in the ~~document~~ content of electronic documents;

b)   using a content scanner to scan objects referenced by hyperlinks ~~links~~ identified by the link analyser and to determine the ~~their~~ acceptability of the objects according to predefined rules; ~~and~~

c)   ~~when~~ responsive to a hyperlink ~~the link~~ being to an object external to the document which object is determined by the content scanner to be acceptable, retrieving the external object and storing the retrieved external object on a trusted server;

d)   responsive to a hyperlink being to an object external to the document which object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable, performing remedial action; and

e)   modifying electronic documents ~~the document~~ by replacing the hyperlink ~~link~~ to an ~~the~~ external object by a hyperlink ~~one~~ to the ~~a~~ copy of the external object stored on the ~~a~~ trusted server.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):   A method according to claim 5 wherein the steps a) and b) are used recursively to process hyperlinks ~~links~~ identified in such external objects.

Claim 7 (Original):   A method according to claim 6 in which only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

-3-

SHIPP, A.
Appl. No. 10/500,958
Response to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   A method according to claim 5, wherein the remedial action comprises one or more of:

flagging or modifying the document to indicate that the content scanner has found the object to be unacceptable;

modifying the document by replacing the hyperlink by a non-functional hyperlink; and

quarantining the document and sending the intended recipient an alert advising the recipient that this has been done if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable the document is flagged or modified to indicate that fact.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended):   A content scanning system for electronic documents comprising:

a link analyser operative to identify hyperlinks in the content of electronic documents a document; and

a processing system for causing a content scanner to scan objects referenced by hyperlinks identified by the link analyser and to determine acceptability of these scanned objects according to predefined rules, the processing system being operative, in response to a hyperlink being to an object that is external to the document and that is determined to be acceptable, to retrieve the external object and store the retrieved external object on a trusted server, the processing system being operative, in response to a hyperlink being to an object that is external to the document and that is determined to be unacceptable, to perform remedial action, wherein

the processing system modifies electronic documents modify the document by replacing the hyperlink to an the external object identified by the link analyser by a hyperlink to the a copy of the external object stored on the a trusted server.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended):   A system according to claim 9, wherein the remedial action comprises one or more of:

flagging or modifying the document to indicate that the content scanner has found the object to be unacceptable;

modifying the document by replacing the hyperlink by a non-functional hyperlink; and

SHIPP, A.
Appl. No. 10/500,958
Response to Office Action dated July 26, 2006

quarantining the document and sending the intended recipient an alert advising the recipient that this has been done ~~the link analyzer and the processing system are operative to recursively process hyperlinks identified in such external objects~~.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented):   A system according to claim 10, wherein only a maximum depth of recursion is permitted and the document is flagged as unacceptable if that limit is reached.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented):   A system according to claim 9, wherein if any linked-to object is determined by the content scanner to be unacceptable, the document is flagged or modified to indicate the unacceptability.

- 5 -